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January 23, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney, Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street, NW, Ste. 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I write in support of the proposed consent decree between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. After four years and \$35 million spent pursuing the lawsuit, it is time that the country move on to more pressing business.

Microsoft is being adequately reprimanded by the proposed agreement, as the settlement would address many of the major charges against Microsoft. The company would be required to provide technical details to help rivals make products compatible with the Windows operating system. It also bans exclusive contracts with computer makers that put rival software vendors at a disadvantage.

Prolonging the settlement would deliver a severe blow to California's already shaky financial situation, as our state is expected to pay the lion's share of the remaining trial costs. This is a fair deal - but more importantly, it is time to put this lawsuit behind us for the good of taxpayers. I urge you to move forward with the agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Branzuela", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Branzuela